

**FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of February 17, 2011**

The February meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at Maury Commons, Suite 111. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Tim Duffy, Ken Kroko, Barbara Miller-Richards (arrived late), and Gary Olsen. Absent: Commissioners Brian Baker, George Foster, Bea Paolucci and Susan Tyler. Also in attendance: Robert Antozzi and Patricia Sparks.

Commissioner Duffy welcomed our new Commissioner Gary Olsen to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Dr. Antozzi introduced Jennifer Hellier, Special Events and Marketing Coordinator, to the Commissioners. Jennifer briefly addressed the Commissioners on her family, education, and work experience. The Commissioners welcomed her to the Parks and Recreation family.

- I. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of January 20, 2011 were unanimously approved.
- II. **Public Comment:** James Lawrence, 802 Caroline Street, gave the Commissioners a newspaper article in reference to the City of Greenfield, Massachusetts placing benches in the downtown area for visitors and shoppers. James requested that staff research the possibility of the area beside the Visitors Center (Frejus Sister City area) becoming a park.
- III. **Communications from the Director:** The Commissioners reviewed the following reports:

Financial Report – January 2011

Sports Report – January 2011/February 2011-Dr. Antozzi stated that the third paragraph may need some explanation. This is the third year that Parks & Recreation staff have been working with the local area soccer associations and clubs in scheduling tournaments at Dixon. The Fredericksburg Area Soccer Association and the Fredericksburg Soccer Club have requested use of Dixon fields for State Cup games. Dr. Antozzi reported that both organizations were informed that the scheduling of the fields for State Cup games would be assigned through the Virginia Youth Soccer Association. Dr. Antozzi stated that the tennis courts would be refurbished this spring.

Leisure Report – January 2011/February 2011 – Dr. Antozzi referenced the aquatic section on the Leisure report. In January the Commissioners requested staff research the possibility of keeping the pool open through Labor Day. Spotsylvania County reported that their pool closes mid August due to school starting. Stafford County reported that they have full-time (year round) staff that enables them to provide quality lifeguards through Labor Day weekend. Stafford County reduces pool hours. Dr. Antozzi reported that he would be meeting with Mark Whitley, Assistant City Manager, to discuss the pool budget and the possibility of staying open through Labor Day.

Follow-Up Report –January 2011 – Dr. Antozzi reported that the survey was completed from the College Terrace residents requesting their opinion on placing lights at the dog park. The survey revealed that the majority of the residents were not opposed to having lights at the dog park that go off at a reasonable hour (8:00 p.m.). Virginia Power, however, cannot provide a timer. Hence, a private system would need to be purchased. One idea is for lights to be installed at the shade structure with illumination directed to the immediate grounds until the time turns the system off at 8:00pm. The Dog Group would be responsible for purchasing the timer system. Once the timer system is purchased, Parks and Recreation staff could install it.

IV. Noteworthy Dates: The Commissioners reviewed upcoming programs and trips.

V. Old Business:

A. Pathways – Dr. Antozzi reported we are trying to finalize things with the Department of Historical Resources in order to bid on the Rappahannock Heritage Trail. **The Dowling easement property has been taken out of the project and will be an add/alternate depending on the bid timeframe. The State changed their deadline for initiation of the project and therefore the property is not an emergency category for imminent domain.** The City Attorney has written a letter to the Wheeler's attorney verifying that the pathway will not cross their property. No response has been received from the Wheeler's attorney.

B. Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Partnership –
Construction/moving of dirt continues.

C. Riverfront Park – Dr. Antozzi reported that we are gathering information for various interim improvements such as split rail fencing, trash receptacles, benches, landscaping etc. The Riverfront Park Task force will eventually be re-established.

D. Park Entrance Signs - Dr. Antozzi reported that we are waiting for the next fiscal year.

E. Powhatan Park – Dr. Antozzi reported that tomorrow he is expecting a completed site plan from Bagby, Caldwell and Associates, P. C. on Powhatan Park. The Planning Department will then submit the site plans to the Planning Commission for approval.

VI. New Business:

Commission Concerns and Topics: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Approved by the Recreation Commission

 _____ Dr. Robert Antozzi, Director	 _____ Date
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Next Meeting March 17, 2011 at Maury Commons, Suite 111.